

Public Works Department at least in respect of tanks whose revenue is Rs. 5,000 and upwards.

*Mr. Venkatachar.*—The capacity of a tank should not be increased unless there is certain prospect of more lands being irrigated. It is very difficult for the ryots to prevent the accumulation of silt. The Government should issue strict rules regarding distribution of water and prevent interference with the channel. It is impossible to expect the people to combine and arrange these things for themselves.

*Reply of Government.*—As far as possible, remedies are being provided but the ryots should take more interest in the maintenance of tanks and channels and prevent waste of water. The Tank Panchayet Bill has been introduced with a view to provide the people with greater facilities to overcome such inconveniences.

SUBJECT No. 90.

Removal of silt from minor tanks.

Mr. A. Narasimbiengar, Sagar Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—Several minor tanks in the malnad are now in a deplorable condition for want of repairs. They are silted up and consequently the underground springs are closed up. Unless the accumulated silt is removed, the repairs done to these tanks will not be of any use. It is therefore prayed that the silt of a few tanks at least may be cleared at Government cost for the benefit of cultivation. It is not possible for the ryots to remove the deposits of dried and rotten leaves from these springs, which are known as *neerkannus*. If the Chief Engineer would visit the locality, the member would show some of these tanks to him, when he would be able to see how hopeless it would be for the ryots to undertake to repair them.

*Reply of Government.*—The member should send a list of a few such tanks to the Chief Engineer who would then be able to study the question on the spot and make the necessary suggestions to Government. The subject is noted for consideration along with the question of malnad tanks generally.

SUBJECT No. 91.

Supervision of works executed by revenue agency.

Messrs. Rangappa and Ramappa, Srinivaspur Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—The present class of Tank Inspectors may be replaced by better paid and more qualified men and an Assistant Engineer attached to the district to supervise works executed by revenue agency. In the Srinivaspur Taluk, a tank work that was partly executed (Bychepallikunte) had to be given up as the estimate was grossly defective and drawn up by a Tank Inspector who did not know anything about grades.

*Reply of Government.*—The Tank Inspectors that are now appointed are properly qualified and have received some professional training. During the last distress